effect that the latest batch of 11 F-16 aircraft being supplied by USA to Pakistan are cheaper than earlier batches supplied since 1982.

(b) On several occasions, Government has conveyed to USA India's concern at the continuing supply of sophisticated arms by USA to Pakistan beyond its legitimate defence requirements.

Ordnance Factories

1970. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that work on three of the four new ordnance factories is proceeding apace;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is likely to upgrade our military preparedness to match the geo-political and geo-strategic situation obtaining in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Work at the new ordnance factories is progressing satisfactorily. It would not be in public interest to give details thereof.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Protocol with the USSR on Computers and Electronics

1971. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol on Computers and electronics;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether there are any more proposals being discussed between the two countries to strengthen cooperation in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The protocol of the sixth session of the Indo-USSR Working Group on Computers and Electronics was signed on 22nd April, 1988.

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the recommendations of the 5th meeting of working group on computers and Electronics and decisions taken in the 11th meeting of Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical cooperation, four sub-groups have been constituted viz:

1. Computer Techniques
2. Automation and Control Systems and Instrumentation
3. Electronics
4. Means of communication

The four sub-group meetings were held between 18th to 20th April, 1988 preceding the main working group. Each sub-group discussed items for mutual interest and cooperation, exchange of information, identification of electronic products for trade, joint ventures, etc. All these areas have been discussed between the two countries to strengthen cooperation in electronics and computers.

राजस्थान में बाल विवाह

1972. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या विधि और न्याय मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 24 अप्रैल, 1988 के दैनिक "जनसत्ता" में प्रकाशित इस आशय के समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है कि राजस्थान में 14 अप्रैल, 1988 को "अक्षय तृतीया" या "आखा तीज" के पावन वर्ष पर लगभग 25 हजार बाल विवाह सम्पन्न किए गए और यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ; और

(ख) बाल विवाह की बुराई को समाप्त करने के लिए बाल विवाह निरोधक कानूनों को और अधिक प्रभावकारी बनाने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?